

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. Selectmen present were: James McIlroy and Michael Woodworth. Wes Moore joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Police Chief Reed, Fire Chief Jeff Buxton, and Alison Watts.

James made a motion to accept and sign the six month extension on the Comcast Contract. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Steve Coes re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment was signed.

Three abatements were signed.

The bank signature card was signed.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

A two hour parking ban on Route 85 was discussed. As this is a state road, the Town cannot make changes.

Nancy informed the Selectmen that the changes to the handicapped ramp at the front of the Town Hall will be made the week of April 9<sup>th</sup> and should be completed by April 13<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that before payment is released to the contractor, the ramp will be inspected by the Building Inspector and by Selectman Michael Woodworth.

Nancy informed the Selectmen that Primex, the insurance company for the town, sent a check to the town for the depreciation holdback with regard to the claim made for the tree limb that went through the Town Hall roof. The town must complete the refinishing of the floors in the Town Hall within two years in order to be paid for that water damage claim by Primex.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm for the Public Hearing on the proposed Route 108 Bicycle Lane.

The proposed Route 108 Bicycle Lane Hearing was held in the Town Hall. The Selectmen wanted to give the residents of Newfields the opportunity to give their input on the proposed project. Representatives from the State along with Al Dixon of Newmarket were in attendance along with a few Newfields residents.

The State of New Hampshire has allocated funds for a bicycle lane and

has asked the Town of Newmarket to manage the project. A municipal managed project such as this would be, is faster to complete by three to four years than if it were to be constructed by the State. The Towns would be responsible for the design and construction of the bicycle lane. The Town of Newmarket would receive all of the eligible invoices for the project, pay them and then be reimbursed by the State. Only invoices directly related to the project would be paid. Attorney fees to review contracts would not be reimbursed.

The preliminary plan is to extend the roadway by three feet on each side. The taking of land by eminent domain is not expected, but drainage easements may need to be acquired.

A concern about where the bicycle lane would fit on the Route 108 bridge took place. One option is to end the bicycle lane at the beginning of the bridge and start it back up at the end of the bridge and another alternative was to place the lane off of Route 108 to avoid the bridge altogether. The bridge is not scheduled to be replaced or re-built in the next few decades and will not be made wider only for the bicycle lane.

The fact that Route 108 is a difficult road for both drivers and bicyclists was thoroughly discussed.

The point was made that the proposed lane is only a few hundred feet in Newfields and that the project would be more beneficial to the Town if the bicycle lane were to be located on Route 85 or Route 87 or if the lane were to be extended to the traffic circle in Stratham.

At 7:58pm the Public Hearing was adjourned.

The Selectmen's Meeting went back into public session at 8:08pm.

Chief Reed advised the Selectmen that Officer Steve McAulay graduated from the Police Academy last week.

James asked the Chief if he had forwarded his proposed changes to the Personnel Policy to the Selectmen. The Chief has not done so at this time. He asked if the Selectmen would make changes to the Personnel Policy that he submitted on his own. James said no, the Town has paid for a labor law attorney to put together a policy for the Town and the Selectmen prefer to use that as a base policy. The Chief will submit his proposed changes within two weeks.

The Police Department is taking over the annual Easter Egg Hunt from Mary August. They will put a notice in the Newfields Elementary School Newsletter about the event. At this time they have approximately 600 eggs to hide for the children.

At 8:12pm the meeting went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3II and went back into a public session at 9:17pm.

Wes made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Fire Chief Jeff Buxton advised the Selectmen that he has applied for several grants this year for equipment, a thermal imager, fire alarm for the station, a fire truck, and turnout gear. He has applied for grants for turnout gear for several years and has not received the grants. Jeff spoke with Senator John Sununu who will try to obtain a grant for the Fire Department this year.

The turnout gear was last purchased in 1998 and Jeff sent three sets (of varying ages) for safety analysis. He was advised the gear should not be used as it is not up to current NFPA ratings. They are not safe for the firefighters to use.

Jeff obtained pricing for 19 sets of turnout gear (pants and coats) from a number of suppliers. The best price was from Securetex for \$27,615.83. Jeff asked if he could use funds from the Impact Fee account to purchase the 19 sets of turnout gear needed. (The Impact Fee account was used in the past for part of the tanker and for dredging.)

Wes made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to order the nineteen sets of turnout gear needed with payment of no more than \$30,000. to come from the Impact Fee/Fire Department Trust Fund. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Jeff advised that he currently has 29 volunteers on the roster with 24 regular members. The ideal number of volunteers is 30, but he needs more volunteers available during the day.

Jeff is making a list of equipment owned by the Fire Department and will give that list to Nancy to make sure the department has adequate coverage with the insurance company.

Jeff asked about insurance coverage for the volunteer firefighters. He realizes that they are covered by Worker' Compensation, but asked if there was any other coverage. Nancy will obtain written information from the insurance company to pass along to Jeff.

The Fire Department has instituted a new training program that is working well – it consists of updated training information for the firefighters.

Wes stated that the Newfields Fire Department is well trained and is highly regarded by other Fire Departments in the area.

Alison Watts met with the Selectmen to discuss the Conservation Commission. They have been paying the legal fees related to Conservation issues for the past few years. They have not approved the last few invoices from Fran Lane for Conservation issues because the Commission no longer has any income.

James asked about conservation breaches legal fees and Alison said those would not be paid by the Commission. The Conservation Commission will only pay for items that they contract for. James feels the Conservation Commission should pay any remaining fees on the Piscassic Greenway and Cole property, along with the Conservation breach as they agreed to in the past. Alison feels the Conservation Commission will honor the Piscassic Greenway and Cole invoices, but they have voted against paying the latest invoice on the Conservation breach. The Commission voted to no longer pay legal fees effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

Wes reported that he and Jack Shaw met at the old post office building to see what maintenance/repairs are needed. Jack will take the railings down, straighten them, and reinstall them at no charge. The stairs are made of pressure treated wood and are fine for now. The shutters are in poor condition and will be removed. An estimate will be obtained to remove the fences and repair the pavement. Wes will personally sand and paint the window sills, clean up the vegetation, and try to get the building in better shape by Memorial Day.

Brian Knipstein will be asked to take the “stuff” from the hallway of the Town Hall and dispose of it on clean up day. The “stuff” includes an old voter machine and an old file cabinet.

The Budget Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen next week and to bring in a draft of the form to be used by all departments in formulating their budget for 2008. Nancy will send a reminder to the Committee members about the meeting.

John Hayden is not interested in being re-appointed to the Planning Board. Currently Janet Smith is an alternate and she will be asked to become a full-time member of the Planning Board.

Jackie Horgan was appointed to the Dispatch Advisory Committee along with Win Fream, Jeff Buxton, Anne Gould, and Michael Woodworth. The Selectmen will meet with the committee members and give them their duties in the near future.

It was determined that the Newfields old paper road issues is a Planning Department issue.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 27, 2007 meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

James reported that he spoke with Fran Lane regarding the Newfields Water District. Fran will research when the switch occurred and how the funds can be spent.

Wes spoke with Ray Buxton of the Water District and was informed that the Water District will ask for a bond from the Newfields Water and Sewer District and also to use funds from the trust fund. Ray is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen next week.

James made a motion not to enter into a Municipal Agreement with the Town of Newmarket and the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation for the construction of a bicycle lane on Route 108, but to let the state handle the project. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Scott Moulton of Moulton Landscaping contacted the Town Office and advised that he is ready to start landscaping. The Selectmen asked Nancy to contact Scott asking if his pricing is remaining the same as last year. If not, he must submit pricing no later than April 10<sup>th</sup>. Nancy was also asked to contact Gary Davey for his pricing on the same job. A final decision will be made a next week's meeting.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45pm. The motion was seconded by James and passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer